

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01066 01 OF 03 142028Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ACDE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 SAJ-01 FEA-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5196

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 1066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, US, UR

SUBJ: CCD: US-SOVIET MEETING OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD),
FEB 14, 1977

1. SUMMARY. US AND SOVIET CO-CHAIRMEN MET ON EVE OF
THE OPENING OF THE CCD SPRING SESSION FOR AMIABLE, BUSINESS-LIKE
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AGENDA, POSITIONS, AND TACTICS.
SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01066 01 OF 03 142028Z

IN SEISMIC EXPERTS' GROUP, BUT THAT THEY CONSIDER THE
QUESTION OF DATES FOR MEETING TO BE OPEN. SOVIETS ALSO
PRESSED FOR PARTICIPATION OF US EXPERT IN MEETING ON
NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO COMMENCE MARCH 14,
AND FOR EARLY BILATERALS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. USREP
INDICATED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO CCD AND MULTI-
LATERAL DISARMAMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE

BAN ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND AN EFFECTIVE PROHIBITION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. USREP EXPLAINED THAT USG CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE REVIEW PROCESS, MAKING IT UNLIKELY THAT US WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER CONCRETE PROPOSALS EARLY IN CCD SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. USREP (SLOSS) ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEMBERS USDEL (MEYERS, TURRENTINE, AND WILMOT) MET WITH SOVIET REP (LIKHACHEV) AND DELOFF (NAZARKIN) AT SOVIET RESIDENCE IN CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING FEB 14, ON EVE OF OPENING OF CCD SPRING SESSION. ONE-HOUR MEETING WAS AMIABLE AND BUSINESS-LIKE.

3. USREP OPENED MEETING BY INDICATING THAT USG CONTINUES TO VIEW CCD AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE MULTI-LATERAL NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS INTERESTED IN TAKING MEANINGFUL ARMS CONTROL STEPS AND HAS A NUMBER OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES UNDER INTENSIVE REVIEW, INCLUDING THOSE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE CCD. USREP UNDERSCORED US BELIEF THAT ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS MUST ENHANCE SECURITY AND BE SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE VERIFICATION IF THEY ARE TO BE MEANINGFUL. WITH REGARD TO EARLY PART OF CCD SESSION, USREP INDICATED THAT USDEL WOULD SKETCH GENERAL VIEWS AT OUTSET BUT MOST LIKELY WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO DILATE ON CONCRETE PROPOSALS UNTIL PERHAPS CLOSER TO END OF SPRING SESSION. DURING SUMMER SESSION, WE EXPECTED BE ABLE TO BE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC.

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01066 01 OF 03 142028Z

4. SOVIET REP WELCOMED CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US DELEGATION IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY LAST SUMMER DURING THE ENMOD CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, AND HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP. HE SPECIFIED THREE ISSUES WHICH THE SOVIETS CONSIDER PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT:

A. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) - SOVIET REP SAID THAT AMB DOBRYNIN HAD DISCUSSED CTB ISSUE IN WASHINGTON (SEE COMMENT BELOW). HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US SIDE WILL RECONSIDER ITS VIEW TOWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS (E.G., SUCH AS THE SOVIET DRAFT TREATY). EMPHASIZING SOVIET INTEREST IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR PROGRESS ON A CTB, LIKHACHEV SAID THAT SOVIETS WILL SEND AN EXPERT AND TWO ADVISORS TO THE SEISMIC EXPERTS' GROUP. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE EXPERTS' MEETING HAD BEEN SET FOR FEB 21-25, BUT SAID THAT FINAL DECISION ON DATES HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

B. NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (MDW) - SOVIET REP

EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO MDW MEETINGS, WHICH THE CCD HAD DECIDED LAST SUMMER TO HOLD THIS SPRING, TENTATIVELY TO START ON MARCH 14. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THE DATES. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS LOOKED FORWARD TO THE US AND OTHER SENDING EXPERTS. HE ALSO INDICATED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PINNING DOWN DATE FOR MEETING. (COMMENT: USDEL SENDING RECOMMENDATION ON THIS SUBJECT SEPTTEL. END COMMENT)

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01066 02 OF 03 142051Z
ACTION ACDA-10

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USIE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5197

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 GENEVA 1066

C. CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) - SOVIET REP SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS A CW AGREEMENT IMPORTANT. HE SAID THAT WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PROGRESS BASED ON OUR JOINT INITIATIVE WHICH EVERYONE IS EAGERLY AWAITING. LIKHATCHEV EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT IS QUOTE: HIGH TIME TO WORK QUICKER END QUOTE. HE CALLED FOR US-SOVIET

BILATERALS AT AN EARLY DATE.

5. IN RESPONSE, USREP SAID THAT US IS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE SOVIET DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01066 02 OF 03 142051Z

SEISMIC EXPERTS' GROUP. ON MDW, USREP INDICATED AWARENESS THAT SOVIETS HAD RAISED ISSUE IN WASHINGTON AND SAID THAT WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY COMMENT AT THIS TIME, BUT WOULD REPORT BACK VIEWS OF SOVIET AND OTHER DELS AND AWAIT A RESPONSE. USREP ALSO INDICATED THAT US SIDE DOES NOT ASCRIBE SAME PRIORITY TO MDW ISSUE THAT SOVIETS DO. ON CW, USREP SAID THAT USG IS UNDERTAKING A FRESH REVIEW OF ISSUE WHICH WHEN COMPLETED SHOULD PERMIT US TO FACILITATE MOVING AHEAD ON CW THIS YEAR. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR BILATERALS, US REP INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HOLD ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS ON VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND VERIFICATION ISSUES, IF WE COULD AGREE ON A SUITABLE AGENDA. USREP SAID AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO HOLD CW BILATERALS EARLY IN SESSION, BUT THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BE REPORTED AND GUIDANCE REQUESTED. USREP SAID THAT IF THE SITUATION LOOKS PROMISING, WE COULD POSSIBLY HOLD ADDITIONAL BILATERALS BETWEEN SPRING AND SUMMER CCD SESSIONS, TO SET STAGE FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS DURING SUMMER SESSION.

6. SOVIET REP SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT SOME CCD DELEGATIONS WANT TO SET UP A CW WORKING GROUP, AND REQUESTED US VIEWS. USREP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE PREMATURE. SOVIET REP SAID THAT HIS DEL HAD QUOTE ALMOST THE SAME OPINION END QUOTE.

7. WITH REGARD TO CCD PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES, USREP SAID US IS INTERESTED IN PROTECTING BENEFITS OF CCD BY PRESERVING CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING, ITS INDEPENDENCE, ETC., AND WELCOMED CO-CHAIRMEN COOPERATION AS ELEMENT.

8. SOVIET REP RESPONDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE CCD IN ITS PRESENT FORM TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT FORUM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01066 02 OF 03 142051Z

FOR NEGOTIATING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. THE ELEMENTS WHICH THEY CONSIDER IMPORTANT INCLUDE:

A. THE CCD'S INDEPENDENCE; B. THE BALANCED AND REALISTIC COMPOSITION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP; C. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CCD AND ITS FLEXIBILITY; D. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE SOVIETS.

9. USREP SAID THAT OUR VIEW TOWARD THE CCD WAS VERY SIMILAR. HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD APPROACH THE CCD ISSUES NOT IN ISOLATION, BUT LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT 18. .9,5# , FOR INSTANCE TO THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD). USREP SUGGESTED THAT THE CCD CO-SHAIRMEN SHOULD COME INTO THE SSOD WITH SOME INDICATION THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OR IS UNDERWAY.

10. SOVIET REP SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE FULLY AGREES.

11. DISCUSSION OF WHEN SPRING SESSION MIGHT END AND HOW LONG SUMMER SESSION MIGHT RUN WERE INCONCLUSIVE.

12. SOVIET REP ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF ENMOD CONVENTION AND USREP OUTLINED US LEGAL PROBLEM AND INDICATED THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS US DOMESTIC LEGAL PROBLEM IS RESOLVED.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01066 03 OF 03 142054Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 GENEVA 1066

13. SOVIET REP ASKED IF US PLANNED TO PURSUE RADIO-
LOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) INITIATIVE AT THE CCD TO FOLLOW UP
ON THOUGHTS EXPRESSED BY FORMER ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE AT THE
UN LAST FALL.

14. USREP SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT RW WOULD COME
UP AT AN EARLY DATE, BUT THAT US MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY
ON THIS ISSUE AT SOMETIME IN FUTURE SINCE IT WOULD BE
LOGICAL TO FILL IN THE GAP WITH A FORMAL ARMS CONTROL
AGREEMENT.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01066 03 OF 03 142054Z

15. THE MEETING ENDED WITH BOTH DELEGATIONS TOASTING
CONTINUATION OF THE CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN CO-CHAIRMEN.

16. ACTIONS REQUIRED: REQUEST GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING
TO SOVIET REQUEST FOR CW BILATERALS AND PARTICIPATION
OF US EXPERT IN MDW MEETING.

17. COMMENT: USDEL RESPECTFULLY WISHES TO STRESS THAT IT
IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT ITS TASKS EFFECTIVELY,
OFTEN IN FAST-MOVING SITUATIONS, IF MAJOR INTERVENTIONS
IN WASHINGTON, OR CONVERSATIONS IN CCD POSTS ABROAD,
SUCH AS EXPOSITION OF SOVIET VIEWS ON MDW AND ON CTB
AT SENIOR LEVELS IN DEPARTMENT BY SOVIET EMBASSY, ARE
NOT SWIFTLY CONVEYED TO USDEL AND TO WASHINGTON CCD
BACKSTOPPING GROUP. THESE VIEWS OBVIOUSLY BEAR ON
AGENDA, TACTICS AND SUBSTANCE AT CCD. WE KNOW WASHINGTON
AGREES IT IS IN INTEREST OF ALL IMMEDIATELY-CONCERNED
US OFFICIALS TO KEEP IN MIND NEXUS BETWEEN BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS ON CCD SUBJECTS IN WASHINGTON AND AT POSTS
ABROAD, AND TASKS BEFORE USDEL. END COMMENT.CATTO

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR, CCD
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